

*Type*.—In my collection. Male adult collected at Luluabourg, Belgian Congo on 2 January 1939.

*Remarks*.—Three examples compared with long series of *S. a. lwenarum* from north-west Northern Rhodesia.

### A new Race of Rock-Sparrow.

Mr. ANDREW KEVE sent the following :—

PETRONIA PETRONIA HÄRMSI, new race.

*Description*.—Differs from *P. p. intermedia* Hartert of Central Asia by the smaller measurements. The colours of the back are washed with tawny and has none of the blackish-brown coloration of *P. p. intermedia*. The white spots of the inner tail-feathers average larger and are the same as in the Tian-Shan birds. The underparts are also whiter; the underside of the tail-feathers are uniformly coloured; the yellow spot on the chest is small or almost absent.

*Type and cotype*.—In Museo Nationali Hungarico, Budapest; male, female, Tebbes, 11 April 1900, no. 2850/279 *a et b*; coll. Mih. Harms.

*Measurements*.—Wing: male 92, 92, 94, 98; female, 93, 93 mm.

*Remarks*.—This new race is nearest to *P. p. puteicola* Festa, of Palestine, but it is smaller. The brown streaks on the underside are in the Persian birds brownish.

The Caucasian *P. p. exigua* Hellmayr, is much blacker, even more so than the birds from Tian-Shan.

I have named this new race after M. Harms, who collected the specimens.

### New Races of the Brown Owl, Hedge-Sparrow and a new Species of *Attila*; also a new Genus of Cotingidæ

Mr. ANDRZEJ DUNAJEWSKI sent the following :—

STRIX ALUCO VOLHYNIÆ, new race.

*Description*.—In all three phases of colour, *i.e.* grey, rust, and rust-brown, much darker than the nominate race, even somewhat darker than the average dark specimens of the Caucasian race *S. a. obscurata* Stegmann. The difference is very striking on the upper side, on the underside only noticeable in certain specimens. Some few grey specimens of *S. a. aluco* Linnæus, resemble specimens of *S. a. volhyniæ*, but are always somewhat lighter. Size similar to that of *Strix aluco*.

*Type*.—In the Polish Zoological Museum. Female, from Dolsk, Volhynia; 31 May 1935, grey phase. Cotype from Peturzyca, South Volhynia, District Sokal, 20 May 1939, reddish phase.

*Measurements.*—Wings : male 277, females 279, type 286, 291, 292, albino 267, cotype 281 mm.

*Remarks.*—Other specimens examined : two females, one unsexed, from West and South-Volhynia, one female from Polesia, one male from West Podelia. Among them a pure white albino.

PRUNELLA MODULARIS ENIGMATICA, new race.

*Description.*—Upper side less brownish than in the Caucasian race *P. m. obscura* Hablizl, the crown entirely lacking in brown tones, so that the colour resembles that of the nominate race. Breast much lighter than in all other races, the white being wide-spread, the streaking of the sides dark and well defined. Superciliary stripe light ash-grey, and almost as well marked as in *P. m. obscura*.

*Type.*—In Polish Museum of Zoology. Male, Yalta, Crimea, 20 February 1899.

*Measurements of type.*—Wings : males 68, 70 ; females 65, 67 mm.

*Remarks.*—Also examined one male and two females from the same locality, shot in February, March and November, and therefore, like the type, not certain breeding birds.

AKLETOS, new genus.

*Description.*—Similar to *Attila* Lesson, but tarsus longer and beak smaller. Bristles of the gape undeveloped. Beak about as long as the head ; its shape is reminiscent of those of *Attila* and *Laniocera* Lesson.

The outer toe is united to the middle one over a greater distance than in *Attila*, but not quite to the end of the second phalange. Tarsus pycnaspidean, longer than the culmen and the clawed middle toe, and longer than one-third of the wing length. Tail short and slightly rounded.

The fifth and sixth primaries are the longest, the tenth between the second and third.

Genotype :—

AKLETOS PERUVIANUS, new species.

*Description.*—Head black. Feathers of throat and upper breast black, the latter tipped with rust-red ; the whole plumage is rust-red inclining to a lighter, more yellowish rusty on the underside ; darkest on the wings, rump and tail-feathers ; inner webs of the primaries blackish bordered with rust. The colouring as a whole, with the exception of the head, is not unlike that of the red specimens of *Attila spadicea* (Gmelin), although darker and more reddish on the underside, tail and wings, also more reddish on the upper side.

*Type*.—In the Polish Museum of Zoology. Male, No. 1458, Cumaria on the Ucayali, Peru, 16 April 1934.

*Measurements of type*.—Wing 35, tail 62 mm

## Remarks on *Passer montanus* (Linnæus) in the Western Palæarctic Region with special reference to *Passer catellatus* Kleinschmidt, 1935: England.

Mr. P. A. CLANCEY sent the following communication:—

A critical analysis of recently assembled material of western Palæarctic *Passer montanus* (Linnæus) has revealed distinctive populations in the British Isles which I now consider to warrant separation from the nominate race. A careful fixation by designation of neotype of the type-locality of *P. m. montanus* and the accurate delineation of the characters of this race are clearly necessitated by the data now available.

The *P. montanus* populations of the British Isles represent the termination of a gradual colour cline, being generally redder and more strongly striated on the upper parts than those of central and south-eastern Continental regions, birds from Denmark, western Germany, Holland, Belgium, and northern France being intermediate in coloration between the two extremes. Running parallel to this colour cline is a noticeable diminution in size, the measurements given opposite showing this tendency to an admirable degree, but it should be recognized that Italian birds measured—important from the taxonomic viewpoint—are rather apt to disrupt the otherwise orderly sequence of decreasing east-west measurements. They are in fact slightly divergent, not being typical of central and south-eastern Continental *P. montanus* which average larger and are brighter, less dull, in colour. The measurements of the series examined are given in the table on p. 133.

Hartert, Vög. pal. Fauna, 3, Heft 17 (1921), p. 2070, gives wing measurements of *P. m. montanus* as males 66-73, females 62-72 mm. Tail (*op. cit.*, 1, Heft 2 (1904), p. 160) about 55 mm. Witherby, 'Handbook of British Birds', 1 (1938), p. 162, gives wings of males 65-73 mm., females as in males, tail 51-54 mm. Hartert's measurements and those of Witherby are typical of British *P. montanus* and also show on comparison with the size details of central and south-eastern Continental specimens given in the table, the diminution in size inherent in western European populations. Closely similar measurements to those supplied for British birds are given for Dutch specimens by Hens and van Marle, 'De Nederlandsche Vögels,' 1 (1937), p. 121, viz., 9 males 66-75, 12 females 65-73 mm. from a series collected in all parts of the